Jim Watson
Mayor / Maire

Office of the Mayor
City of Ottawa
110 Laurier Avenue West
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 1J1
Tel.: (613) 580-2496
Fax: (613) 580-2509
E-mail: Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

Bureau du Maire
Ville d'Ottawa
110, avenue Laurier Ouest
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 1J1
Tél.: (613) 580-2496
Téléc.: (613) 580-2509
Courriel : Jim.Watson@ottawa.ca

February 10, 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario
Legislative Building
Queen's Park
Toronto ON M7A 1A1
doug.fordco@pc.ola.org

By e-mail

Re: Request for support to Ottawa residents and community social support agencies

Premier,

As you know, the City of Ottawa is facing unprecedented, unlawful demonstrations that have threatened the safety of the Ottawa community for the last 13 days. As a result of this unprecedented situation and on behalf of Ottawa City Council, I am writing to request that the Province of Ontario consider providing funding supports specifically focused on supporting community social support agencies impacted by the occupation.

I would like to draw to your attention that Ottawa City Council approved the following Motion at the Special City Council meeting of February 7, 2022:

MOTION

Moved by: Councillor L. Dudas
Seconded by: Councillor T. Tierney

WHEREAS the City of Ottawa has now declared a State of Emergency in response to the continued illegal occupation of Ottawa's downtown;

WHEREAS the methods used by these individuals to illegally occupy the City of Ottawa, and terrorize residents and businesses, utilize unprecedented tactics that have no place in a free and democratic society, such as Canada, and mark an intolerable departure from what could be considered lawful protest;

WHEREAS, throughout this period, countless residents have been under extraordinary distress. And for those who suffer from anxiety, have been victims

of violence, or arrived as refugees from war-torn countries, it is causing additional mental-health issues;

WHEREAS agencies dedicated to supporting Ottawa's most vulnerable, such as the Shepherds of Good Hope, have seen volunteers and staff harassed, and even assaulted. As well, after 62 years serving Ottawa most at-risk youth, the Youth Services Bureau of Ottawa has had to shut down their Drop-in Centre for the first time in their history;

WHEREAS due to the sheer number of impacted community social support agencies, organizations that are dedicated to caring for Ottawa's most vulnerable residents, portends the extensive and prolonged impact this occupation will have on Ottawa residents, in particular vulnerable residents;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor, with the support of City Council, make a formal request to both the Provincial and Federal Governments for funding specifically focused on supporting community social support agencies impacted by the occupation.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation to date and I appreciate your consideration of this request for support to these vulnerable social support agencies. Should you have any questions in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim Watson
Mayor
City of Ottawa